

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 07621 090731Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 SSC-01 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /068 W

----- 013381

R 081543Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 600

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PEKING

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7621

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, NI

SUBJ: ALHAJI M. A. SANUSI NAMED ACTING PRINCIPAL

SECRETARY, MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REF : LAGOS A-436, NOV. 27, 1971; LAGOS 7892, SEPT 28, 1972 (NOTAL)

1. EVER SINCE LAST WEEK'S COUP, WE HAVE HEARD CONSISTENT REPORTS THAT JOE IYALLA, FORMER NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. AND PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA), WOULD BE REPLACED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION. (LAGOS 7431). IYALLA, A CLOSE ADVISER TO FORMER HEAD OF STATE GENERAL GOWON, WAS IN KAMPALA WITH GOWON AT THE TIME OF THE COUP. ALTHOUGH HE RETURNED TO LAGOS LATE LAST WEEK, HE WAS APPARENTLY UNABLE MEND FENCES AND IS NOW OUT OF A JOB -- AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.

2. ACCORDING TO THIS AFTERNOON'S "NIGERIAN HERALD", IYALLA WAS ORDERED ON COMPULSORY LEAVE. ALHAJI MUHAMMAD AMINU SANUSI HAS TAKEN OVER AS ACTING PERMSEC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, AN MEA SPOKESMAN WOULD SAY ONLY THAT IYALLA WAS BEING REASSIGNED AFTER SERVING MORE THAN "THE STIPULATED THREE YEAR TERM IN OFFICE."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 07621 090731Z

3. THE FORTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD SANUSI (SEE REFS) IS A CAREER

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO HAS, BEEN SERVING SINCE 1972 AS NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR/HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA, BELGIUM AND THE EEC. HE WAS THE FIRST HEAD OF MEA'S EXTERNAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (INTELLIGENCE).

4. EDUCATED AT THE INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION, ZARIA, AND A GRADUATE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF EXETER, SANUSI HAS BEEN WITH THE NIGERIAN FOREIGN SERVICE SINCE 1956. VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS UNASSUMING, UNEXCEPTIONAL, A PLAYBOY AND WOMANIZER, SANUSI DOES NOT HAVE AN OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AS THE RESULT OF HIS OVERSEAS AMBASSADORIAL POSTINGS. AT SAME TIME, THE ACTING PERMSEC IS KNOWN PERSONALLY AS A PLEASANT, EFFABLE AND ACCESSIBLE INDIVIDUAL.

COMMENT: IYALLA WAS PROFESSIONALLY COMPETENT BUT DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH; IN SANUSI WE MAY HAVE SOMEONE EASY TO DEAL WITH BUT A SHADE LESS COMPETENT. HOPEFULLY THE NEW COMBINATION WILL PROVE BENEFICIAL TO EMBASSY/MEA RELATIONS.

CROSBY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS07621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750275-0701
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750870/aaaacjxn.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS A-436, 75 LAGOS 7892
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALHAJI M. A. SANUSI NAMED ACTING PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, NI, (SANUSI, ALHAJI M A), (IYALLA, JOE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006